

YOUR WEEK IN CHINA'S CAPITAL

今日
北京

BEIJING TODAY

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Tiantongyuan
Vendors Pay
ProtectionA local gang says it's 30 yuan a day or the chengguan will take your wares away. **Page 4**Ctrip Crash
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Web SecurityCtrip's 12-hour outage was another sign of how security comes second online. **Page 5**Wuhan Uni
Students Pay to
Skip GaokaoTwenty-four students have been conned into 'paying' their way into enrollment. **Page 6**Elder Care in
Short Supply

More than 20,000 Beijingers cannot get the access they need to long-term care facilities and fewer than half the city's nursing homes accept social insurance.

This is the bleak picture behind a report of the "ample" nursing home space available to Beijing's elderly residents – at least the ones who have family outside Fifth Ring Road. **Page 2**

Chengguan Sweep Out 'Private Storage' Crews

BY YANG XIN

Visitors to the US Embassy have been prohibited from bringing personal items for nearly five years. For people who depend on their mobile phones or other digital gadgets, the ban has been a serious inconvenience.

For others, it was an opportunity.

As many as 25 people are offering "professional" bag deposit services to embassy visitors. And during the last year, these 25 have become seriously competitive.

Xiao Wang owns and operates one of the nearby stands.

"This February, a gang of five young men from Northeast China showed up and joined the competition," he said. They soon occupied the best business location began changing long-existing game rules.

"Compared to older groups who would set up their services across the street, these guys were harassing new arrivals and threatening them if they didn't pay for their services," he said.

For the embassy, the groups have come to function as an unofficial security team.

Most of the men are between the ages of 25 and 50 and come from the provinces of Henan and Shandong or China's northeast.

Most operate private cars with trunks full of bags and personal items. They offer to store bags for 20 yuan per person and earn as much as 7,000 yuan per month.

"It's a very easy business so none of them want to leave. But the competition is getting worse," Xiao Wang said. "Fights

break out almost every day. The market is much tougher than four years ago."

In the years since the embassy began its baggage ban, fewer visitors are showing up with items in need of storage.

Some of the men have upgraded their vans with small-scale portable photo and copy shops. "I also provide interview tips that are guaranteed to get people a visa," said one car owner who refused to be named.

District chengguan raided the bag deposit service providers on May 28 and dragged five of the men away for questioning.

"Most of them will be fined 500 yuan. Two who are on their second strike might be fined 1,000 yuan," said a member of the chengguan team who refused to state his name. ■

CHINESE STOCK INDEXES

SSE (Shanghai)

Close	Change
4,947.10	▲ 37.12 (0.76%)

SZSE (Shenzhen)

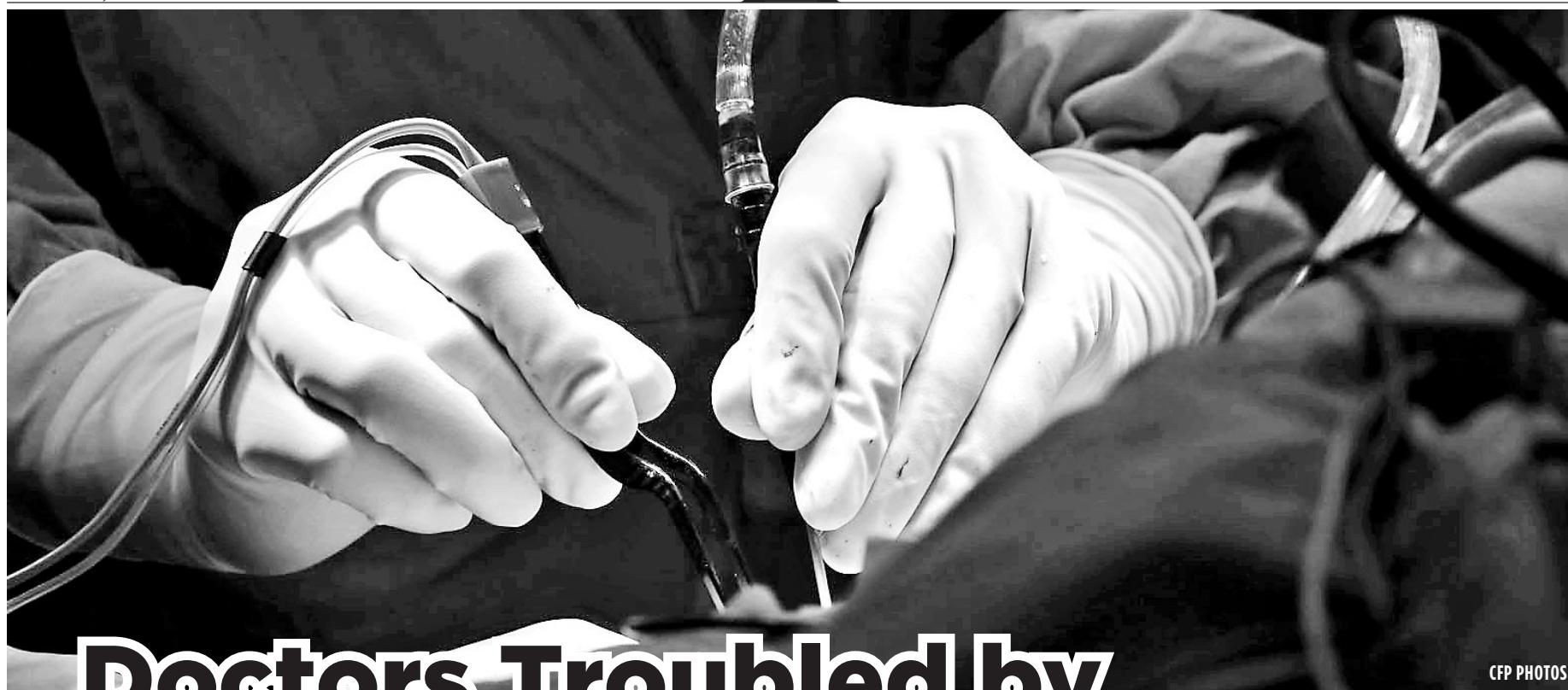
Close	Change
17,501.05	▼ 37.45 (0.21%)

HSI (Hong Kong)

Close	Change
27,551.89	▼ 105.58 (0.38%)

Accurate to market close on June 4, 2015





CFP PHOTOS

Doctors Troubled by Work, Pay, Violence

BY DIAO DIAO

China's doctors are complaining of low salaries, high pressure and an unsatisfying work environment, according to a recent report on doctors' working conditions.

The report is based on three earlier reports from 2009, 2011 and 2014. It offers new insight into the work hours, pay, personal health and violence faced by medical practitioners.

More than 30 percent of China's doctors work more than 60 hours per week and 60 percent are extremely unsatisfied with their pay.

More shockingly, more than half of China's medical practitioners have experienced verbal or physical violence during the last year.

Compared to past years, more doctors

are complaining about their work and pay. In 2009, 92 percent of doctors said their pay did not match their work. That number increased to 96 percent in 2011.

In 2014, nearly 48 percent of China's doctors were between the ages of 25 and 35. Only 18 percent are older than 46.

Personal health was also a concern for most interviewees. More than 55 percent of doctors said their health is failing due to the stress of work.

Doctors' reported hours do not include emergency work. Ji Xianglan, chief physician in the maternity wing of Qianfoshan Hospital in Shandong province, said she has never enjoyed her legally required holiday vacation during the past 40 years of work.

"It's common for us to arrive home

after 9 pm every day. Whenever there is an emergency, we all have to go back to the hospital," Ji said.

But violence received the most complaints.

About 60 percent doctors said they faced oral threats from patients' families: 13 percent said they were battered or physically abused.

President Zhang Yanling of the Chinese Medical Association said the report is intended to call for better treatment of China's medical professionals.

"The unsatisfactory response from doctors reveals the poor life and health they face," Zhang said. "Few care what happens to medical staff when a dispute arises."

Zhang said many doctors are advising their children to stay clear of the medical profession. ■

China's Most-Wanted Fugitive May Return

BY WANG YAN

After 12 years on the run, Yang Xiuzhu, one of China's most wanted fugitives, may be heading home. Yang, the former deputy mayor of Wenzhou, Zhejiang province, fled the country in 2003 when she was charged with embezzling \$40 million.

US Immigration and Customs Enforcement detained Yang on May 28.

Luis Martinez, a spokesman for US Homeland Security, said that Yang is in "custody pending removal to China for violating the terms of the Visa Waiver Program," the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

Xinhua reported that Yang was detained in the US last year after she entered the country with a fake Dutch passport, citing China's Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI).

Bloomberg reported that Yang, who was arrested in May 2005 in the Netherlands, had escaped last May after she was rejected for political asylum.

CCDI said Yang entered the US by train

from Canada and was caught last June when China provided the US government with her passport information.

The government released a list of 100 fugitives during a 2014 campaign named SkyNet, which was intended to pull corrupt officials back under Chinese control. Yang's name was reportedly the first on the list.

China said 40 of the 100 suspected criminals were hiding in the US. 21CN News reported that President Xi Jinping mentioned Yang specifically during his visit with US President Barack Obama.

"The momentum of cooperation with the US is very good," Fu Kui, director of international cooperation at CCDI, told Bloomberg. "There has been some progress and examples of success, and there is room for greater cooperation."

But some experts believe practical problems may prevent Yang's return, as China is one of the 38 countries with which the US has no extradition treaty. ■

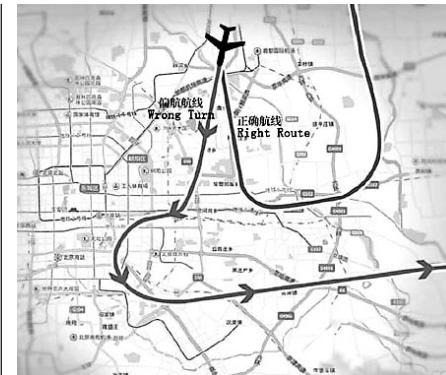
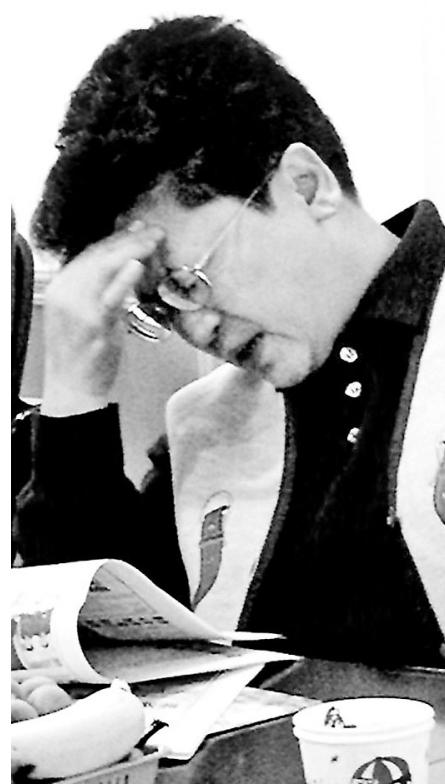


Photo by Mydrivers.com

Low-Flying Russian Plane Enters Third Ring

BY WANG YAN

A Russian flight from Beijing to Moscow took a wrong turn after take-off and ended up on a short detour over Third Ring Road on May 28.

Phoneix.com reported that the flight took off from the Beijing International Airport at 1:05 am and was scheduled to first fly south and then turn east before heading north. However, the pilot turned west and ended up over the downtown residential area.

Many residents said they heard a noisy engine as the plane zoomed 1,500 meters overhead.

The accident is reportedly due to technical error by the pilot. Ground control alerted him of his wrong turn shortly after he entered the downtown's airspace. He quickly turned the plane around and returned to his scheduled route.

The timely intervention of the control tower made sure the error did not "cause much impact," Xinhua reported.

The flight, numbered UN888, landed at the Moscow Vnukovo Airport 11 minutes later than scheduled, according to Transaero Airlines.

The airline said that the diversion was caused by "incorrect data in the onboard digital computer."

The airline said that despite the wrong turn the plane did not violate the capital's no-fly zone.

Neither Chinese nor Russian military commented on the incident. ■



Far-Flung Nursing Homes Sit Empty

BY DIAO DIAO

Contrary to stories about China's densely-packed nursing homes, the Beijing Pension Industry Development Report of 2015 paints a different picture of the capital's elder care environment.

The report, published May 26, shows that most nursing homes have a very low occupancy rate.

Then again, that might be because 80 percent of the nursing homes sit outside Fifth Ring Road, 20 or more kilometers from where the majority of Beijing's elderly residents reside.

There are only 50 nursing homes within Fourth Ring Road, and all are smaller than any nursing home in the suburbs, the report said.

Changping, Chaoyang and Haidian have the most nursing homes, while Dongcheng

has a combined total of 900 beds.

Suburban districts such as Daxing, Pinggu, Miyun and Yanqing all have far more beds than needed. The report advises developers to construct more nursing homes in the central districts of Xicheng, Shijingshan and Dongcheng, where nursing home space is almost always unavailable.

The report says that the two concerns of most old people when choosing a nursing home are the quality of the facilities and distance from home. Price ranks third: few old people can afford to live in a nursing home on their pension.

In 2008, Beijing published its "9064" plan for the elderly. The policy called for housing 90 percent of the capital's elderly in their own homes, 6 percent in government-funded community housing and 4 percent in nursing homes.

The government expected the 4 percent to be disabled.

However, only 12 percent of the disabled old people live in nursing homes, which is less than called for by the 4 percent plan.

More than 100,000 old people are in need of such long-term care facilities, but the city's main districts have only 80,000 beds. Fewer than 50 nursing homes accept social insurance.

Most nursing homes subcontract their medical services to hospitals in the city center. For nursing homes outside Fifth Ring Road, that leaves many residents at risk and isolated from medical care.

Nursing home residents who were interviewed for the report said conditions are hardly satisfying. Most had no access to activities and were only provided basic meals and accommodations. ■

210 Diploma Mills Exposed Ahead of Exams

BY QU CHAONAN

More than 210 diploma mills suspected of illegal enrollment and online trickery were exposed by the watchdog site Sdaxue.com in late May. As many as 95 percent were located in Beijing.

"Many students contacted us when we released our first list in 2013," said Chen Jiangping, the content director of Sdaxue.com. "Fake schools usually say they are in first-tier cities like Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou."

For students from backwater villages or who have poor grades, the Beijing location makes fake schools sound like a promising option," he said.

But many never learn they have been tricked until it is too late.

Chen Lili studied at a civil economic and trade academy in 2008 and graduated with a bachelor's degree in 2010. In 2011, she returned to her hometown in Inner Mongolia to work as a high school teacher. She

was ultimately denied because her diploma was not from an accredited school.

Depending on the size of the operation, diploma mills plagiarize titles and website contents from formal universities and issue recruitment notices on popular message boards.

"Most of the diploma mills' websites are empty shells that cost little to set up. They place their servers on cheap machines in Hong Kong or in the US. It puts them beyond the reach of education officials," said a teacher who did not wish to be named.

The Ministry of Culture publishes a list of accredited schools each year. The current list includes only 2,845 schools. All other "universities" are diploma mills, the ministry said.

The ministry does not maintain a list of non-accredited schools.

"Chinese people regard diplomas

as stepping stones to success," said Liu Caiyan, a commentator for *Dongbei News*. "The intense market demand is why new mills continue to pop up." ■

(Qu Chaonan is an intern at Beijing Today)



CFP Photos

THE WEEK IN WEIRD

STRANGE HAPPENINGS ON THE CHINESE NEWS WIRE
BY SU DERUI

Man's Online Date Set Him Up for Robbery

A man surnamed Wu from Quzhou was tied to a tree, beaten and robbed when he went to see a 21-year-old woman he had met over social media.

The date began normally with coffee and dinner, but on the drive home three men jumped out of the bushes, forced Wu to stop his car and began beating him. They reportedly took 2,000 yuan in cash, Wu's debit cards and a gold necklace valued at 20,000 yuan.

The men withdrew an additional 20,000 from Wu's accounts.

Wu escaped and notified the police, who arrested three suspects. The case remains under investigation.

(Tencent News)

Gov Frustrated by Foreign Porn Sites' Chinese Interfaces

More than 500 foreign-hosted porn sites use Chinese as their primary interface language: 85 percent of these are hosted in the US.

The foreign-origin Chinese porn sites are proving a headache for officials at the Beijing Department of Cultural Market Administration, which has no leverage with which to censor the foreign Web.

Other hosting locations include Japan, Korea, Singapore, the UK, India, Hungary, the Netherlands, Spain and the Czech Republic.

China requires that search terms related to pornography be banned in Chinese search engines.

(Tencent News)

Weibo CEO Bans Models in Swimwear, Lingerie

The wildly popular Weibo accounts of Xiuren models and Japanese porn actresses may be destined for doom.

Weibo CEO Wang Gaofei has announced plans to crush and destroy any accounts featuring images of women in swimwear or lingerie.

The new rules highlight the ongoing effort to "purify" the Chinese Internet of adult content.

(Wenxue City)

Forbidden City Speaks Out Against Sexy Photoshoot

Art photographers beware: taking photos on stone dragons while in the buff is a grievous breach of public morality and a sign of disrespect toward China's cultural heritage.

Especially if you are Chinese.

Forbidden City management called for the photo shoot to be "condemned by all of society."

The pictures were shot at 8:30 am on May 17 by a team of four people who ran into the museum ahead of other tourists. Their work came to an abrupt end in front of the aptly-named Hall of Supreme Harmony.

(Tencent News)



Photo by CFP

Vendors Told to Pay Protection or Face Chengguan

BY WANG LINGXIAO

Beijing's subway stations and public squares have long been the haunts of vagabonds, pan-handlers and peddlers. The sight of food vendors and fruit vendors being evicted by the city's chengguan squads is a daily occurrence.

But vendors at the city's Tiantongyuan North Station have been especially lucky in avoiding the eye of the chengguan. Seated at the north end of Line 5, the station receives more than 14,000 passengers per hour during peak times, and nearby vendors benefit from that powerful traffic flow.

Reporters from *The Beijing News* recently posed as vendors to expose a protection racket that is keeping the subway's vendors safe from the ever-present threat of city chengguan, who are assigned to confiscate their goods and chase them away.

Inside the Underworld

The 84th Acre of the Village of Dongsanqicun is located about five minutes from Tiantongyuan North Station. In spite of the name, it is actually an alley.

Reporters from *The Beijing News* set up their stand there on the afternoon of May 12. Within 10 minutes, a skinny man with a strong northeastern accent arrived to demand money. The man introduced himself as being surnamed Chen and claimed the entire alley was "his territory."

"All vendors who want to work here have to pay rent. It's 500 yuan per month or 30 yuan per day. Otherwise you'll be thrown out," Chen said.

When the reporter asked why the news team had to pay, Chen threatened to call the chengguan. Minutes

later, a man who identified himself as "Xiaofei" arrived and began to threaten the reporters.

The team paid the 30 yuan daily protection fee.

When the crew returned the next day, Chen demand more money and said that vendors have to choose between paying or setting up their stalls by Exit B of the subway station. But at the exit the crew stumbled into more hidden rules.

On May 14, five strongmen came out of a portable "market administrative office" to inspect the reporters. One wearing a vest marked "Police" confiscated their equipment and returned to the office.

"We have to pay 2,200 to 5,000 yuan per month to the office if we want to run our business," a nearby vendor on the snack street said. What the office calls a "snack street" is a narrow 40-meter run sandwiched between the bus stop and the side of the road.

Vendors working the nearby square said they have to pay 2,000 yuan per month and 5,000 yuan for prime positions.

Mystery Men

The "market administrative office" bears no official logo or government iconography. Security staff working in the square identified themselves as being subject to the office.

"When vendors refuse to cough up the money, the boss phones the chengguan and tells everyone else to leave. Then they come in and bust whoever who was refusing to pay," said a staff member who refused to be named.

As for the man in the "Police" vest, Deputy Director of the Sub-district Office of Tiantongyuan Liu Fei said he was an employee hired from the Beijing Security Service's Changping Branch. "His job is to supervise the vendors in the square and report to the Chengguan if anything happens," Liu said.

"I only know he is not an officer from our bureau. Anyone posing as a police officer will be dealt with according to the

law," said Huang Wenli, deputy director of the Changping Security Bureau.

Hole in Enforcement

The story of protection rackets cooperating with the chengguan is nothing new. Local administration have maintained such relationships since 2013.

When asked about the snack street, a spokesman for the "market administrative office" said, "We are just a company trying to organize a snack street with the support of the sub-district office."

The sub-district office denied its involvement, stating that the vendors were meeting spontaneously every day.

For the chengguan, the snack street became a convenient area where they could redirect vendors who were found to be cluttering the street. While they never inspected the snack street, they did clear the square every seven days.

"As a department charged with urban management, the chengguan should be blamed for enabling the current chaotic situation," Wu Bihu, a professor of Beijing University, told CCTV News' 1+1.

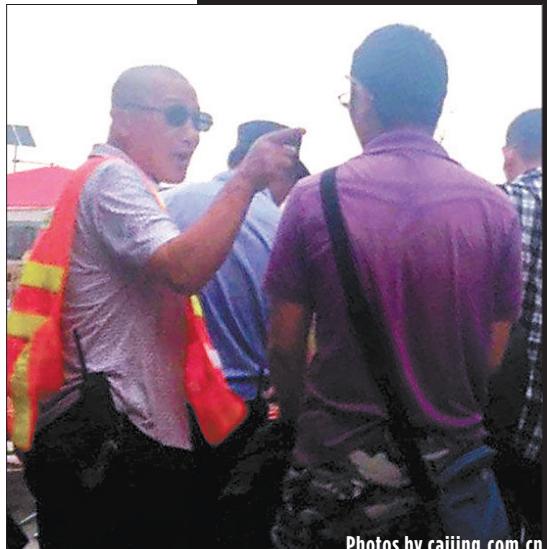
Zhang Zhemin, chief of the Dongxiaokou Branch of Changping's chengguan, said his 14-man team is tasked with overseeing a 32.8 square kilometer area that is home to nearly half a million people.

"In the end, it doesn't matter if we check the street everyday," said a Changping chengguan member who refused to be named. "The vendors aren't afraid of being fined. Their daily profits are much higher than the fines, so there is no way we can deal with the problem."

Tiantongyuan has a comparatively complex makeup. The area is home to office workers as well as impoverished beipiao and local farmers, Wu Bihu said.

"It's not just Tiantongyuan. Many urban fringe zones may have the same problems. It's impossible to drive out the unlicensed vendors or cars because society has a demand for their service. The solution must be better city planning," Wu said. ■

(Wang Lingxiao is an intern at Beijing Today.)



Photos by caijing.com.cn

Ctrip.com Crash Rings Alarm over Web Security

BY SHU PENGQIAN



Photo by CFP

The Chinese travel industry's largest booking platforms, Ctrip.com and eLong.com, went dark on May 28.

What was initially suspected to be an outside attack or inside job was eventually confirmed nearly a day later to be the result of one bad command that wiped out the companies' websites while leaving business data largely untouched.

For the public, it was a reminder of how little Internet companies do to ensure the security of user data and stability of their operations.

May reads like a laundry list of Chinese IT failures.

BeijingStreetRoad Science and Technology Limited Company announced its messaging app Momo was offline on May 10 due to a "temporary network breakdown." NetEase announced its entire framework was offline due to a malfunction that followed a break-in attempt on May 11.

The day before Ctrip.com's failure, domestic payment platform Alipay went down. In this one case, the business was not at fault: municipal service workers accidentally severed the Internet fiber connection to Xiaoshan District, Zhejiang province, where Alipay's servers were located.

Why Web Security?

Modern life has become intimately

tied to the Internet. Belongings, including property and personal information, are routinely entrusted to the network.

For Internet companies, security is important to both operations and reputation.

Data is the heart of IT, and the ability to protect user data is an indicator of company competence. Though data can sometimes be recovered, user trust is considerably more difficult to reclaim.

Since its crash, Ctrip.com has experienced a severe decrease in business. Although the company has yet to release any numbers, an insider said the company's first quarter earnings report shows its losses could total \$1.06 million per hour of downtime.

Ctrip.com share values fell 1.59 percent on May 28.

But Ctrip.com is an outlier: users are more often the primary victims.

Last December, the official website of the Railway Customer Service Center of China leaked hundreds of thousands of user accounts, passwords, e-mail addresses and ID card numbers.

Overlooking Security

Web security is a new issue in China. While much of the world spent the last two decades learning

safe operating practices, the Chinese Internet has remained an open ground for hackers.

"Most domestic Internet companies would rather spend money on competing with other companies than improving their technology or security," said an analyst who would not be named.

Ctrip.com is a perfect example.

In the past two years, Ctrip.com has aggressively expanded its operations and bought out competitors. Data published by iResearch shows that Ctrip.com accounts for half the growth in the Chinese Internet market this year.

But in its rush to beat Baidu, Alibaba and Tencent, Ctrip.com ignored its core technology.

An employee speaking on conditions of anonymity told *The Paper* that Ctrip.com's core technological framework was built on outdated servers and databases. The company also found itself grossly unprepared for downtime.

"Normally, a simple system failure will automatically switch over to backup data and nothing will be down for more than 30 minutes," said Lin Wei, an analyst at Qihoo360.

Ctrip.com was down for nearly 12 hours.

"I can only guess its backup data

was also damaged," Lin said. A technician at Ctrip.com anonymously confirmed that speculation.

But most Chinese Internet companies are in the same position as Ctrip.com. The Internet market's rapid growth masks over their core weaknesses.

Learning to Prevent

Experts say minor investments in defense can pay off far better than recovery measures.

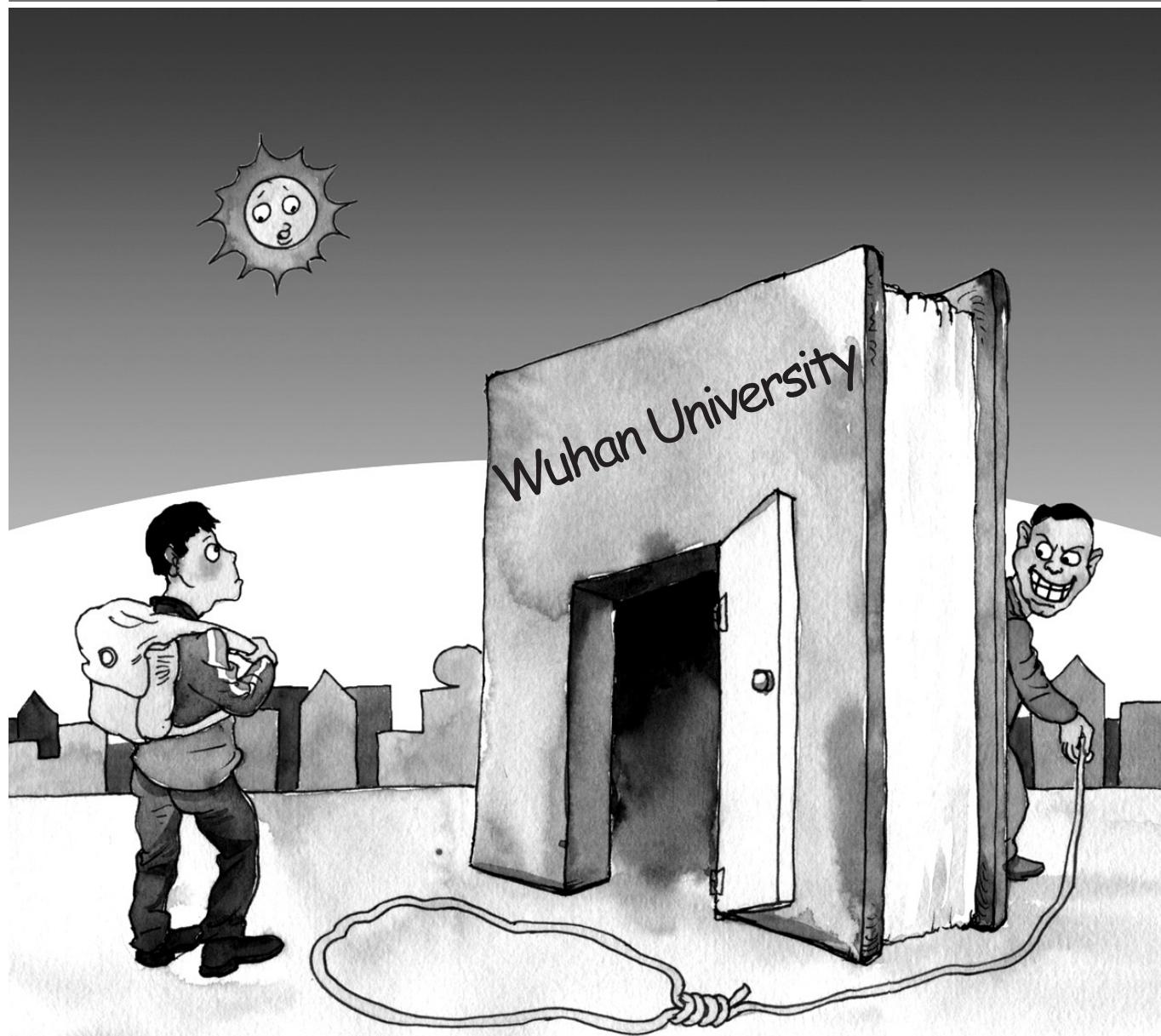
Internet companies should constantly be patching their systems and preparing for possible breakdowns.

But Internet companies cannot be alone in the task of improving Web security. "The nation needs stronger laws to ensure Web security and protect users' interests" said Wu Xuhua, a lawyer.

Domestic law only punishes companies for intentionally leaking a user's private data. The guardians of public data have no one to answer to when leaks result from their own negligence.

Web security is becoming an increasingly thorny issue as the Internet penetrates deeper into Chinese life. The industry may have to step up its self-regulation if it hopes to retain user confidence and avoid government interference. ■

(Shu Pengqian is an intern at Beijing Today)



Zhang Peng is one of many students tricked into buying "admission" to China's universities.

Photo by Chutian Golden News

Cash-for-Access Scam Casts Shadow Over Wuhan University

BY YANG XIN

While normally known for academic excellence, Wuhan University is now at the center of national scandal involving alleged corrupt admission practices and fraud.

Luckless Students

After failing the 2011 college entrance exam, Zhang Peng (pseudonym) began the desperate search for another road into Chinese higher education.

That was when his father's acquaintance turned up with an offer that was too good to refuse: 150,000 yuan for instant admission to a diploma program at Wuhan University. His family did not hesitate to pay up.

In the following back-to-school season, Zhang appeared to be accepted to the school. He was provided with accommodations in one of the student dormitories together with another 23 students who were admitted the same way.

The students sat classes with students who entered the school through the National College Entrance Exam. However, they were never given student IDs and

were required to take separate exams.

When Zhang asked why, Wang Jie, the man who helped him enter the school, told him "You were enrolled for a special reason."

For four years, Zhang and his classmates each paid an additional 15,000 yuan to Wang Jie in tuition fees.

In February, Wang suddenly disappeared and a search on the website of the China Higher Education Student Information and Career Center (CHESICC) on May 18 revealed that Zhang was never registered as a student at Wuhan University.

Ignorant Victims

Since Zhang made his story public, numerous students have made themselves known as similar victims of Wuhan University's alleged admission scam.

A list being maintained by Zhang Peng's parents identifies 10 students who paid 2.72 million yuan to the scammers. Most returned home without making their case to the university.

China News Net said the university's Admission Department and Student Administration Department never

received any reports or claims about students or parents being swindled in the past four years.

The police investigation ended only 10 days after the news broke. Most of the students involved pulled away and refused to communicate with police after the school suspended their classes.

Yue Yuan, a reporter for the *Changjiang Daily*, said most of the students hope to recoup their losses but are unwilling to appear in public. Several were given refunds in exchange for their silence, he said.

"How were unregistered students living in the student dorms for four years? Why did the school's Dormitory Department say Zhang Peng's stay was approved by the university's Dormitory and Classroom Management Center? How did the scammers get access to course list and get the class monitors to deal with students who were off the books?" Yue asked.

Yue said he suspected the answer is a connection between the scammers and the school's administration, but Wuhan University's Party Committee Propaganda Department refused to grant an interview



Photo by CCTV

or respond to his questions in writing.

Under Suspicion

Police have detained three of the alleged scammers on suspicion of fraud. Wang Jie remains on the run.

Insiders who refused to be named said Wang runs an education company that cooperates with the College of Continuing Education at Wuhan University.

"For four years, Wang successfully cheated those students into trusting him. He must have had help inside the university to pull off this deception. I actually suspect that Wang might have used past successful cases to persuade the students," said Xue Jiaming, a public commentator.

The College of Continuing Education at Wuhan University has publicly denied its alleged links to the education company. However, it has disclosed the details of its mounting doubts.

"The company and the college, if not linked by formal contract, must have an oral agreement based on mutual interest," said Yi Guoxiang, a commentator on Changjiang Forum.

"Changes in the job market are making degrees more important than ever. Given what people are willing to pay for an education, few schools are keeping their admission process pure. Many schools have been retooling their admissions office to be a side business that sells admission to ineligible students who are willing to pay for a diploma or degree certificate," Yi said.

The recent scandal calls to memory the corruption of Jiang Jianqin, a former head of the school's Logistics Support Department, who was convicted of embezzling funds and accepting bribes in 2010. The investigation also brought down the department's deputy minister, general manager and vice general manager.

In 2007, two people in charge of the same department were arrested for taking bribes. The university's deputy director of procurement was also investigated for corruption and bribery.

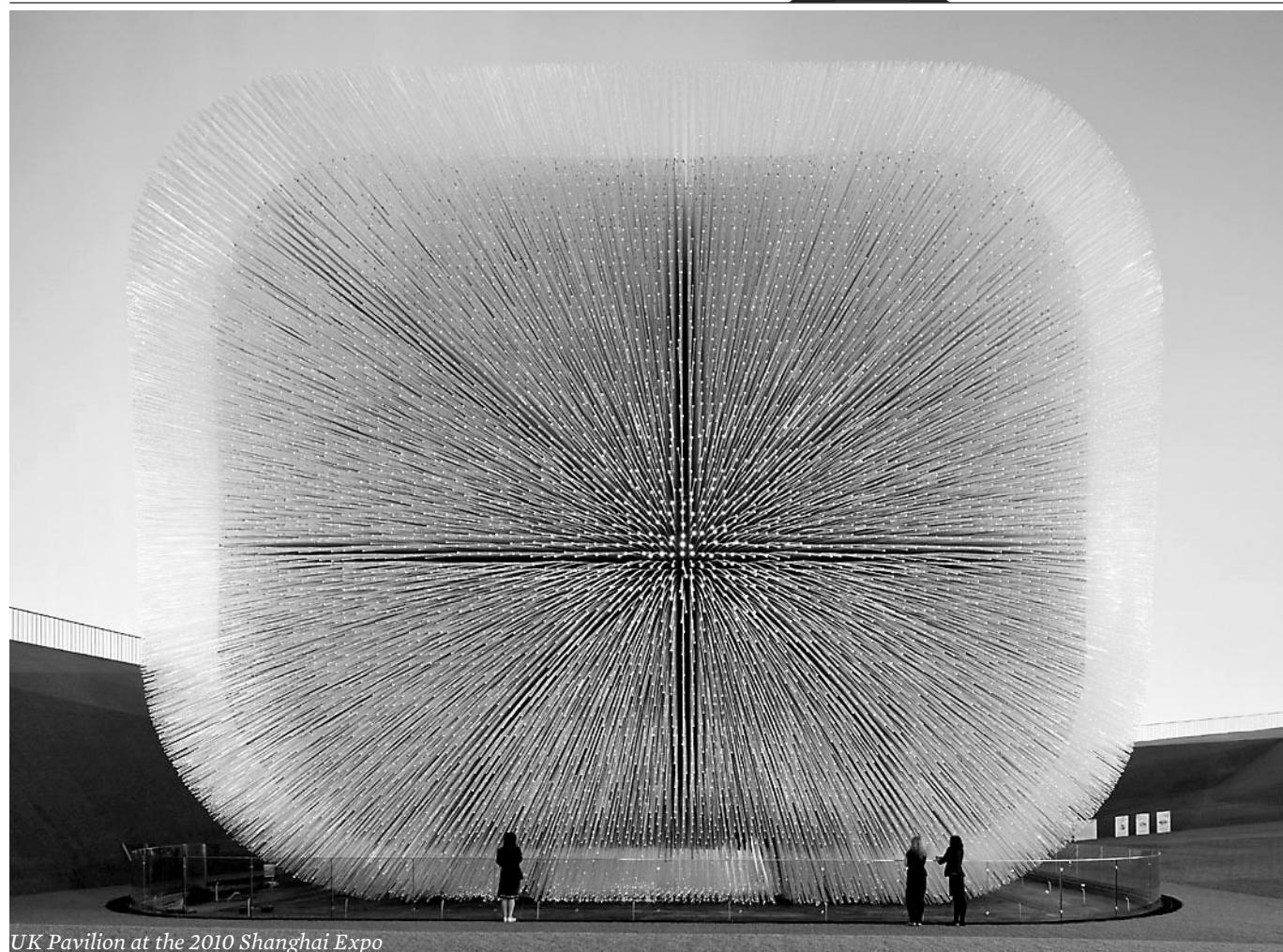
Zhang Peng and the other students were "admitted" to the university only months after Jiang's downfall.

In 2013, another group of more than 60 students were admitted off the books. Most entered the school under the guise of independent recruitment and were not assigned classes with regular students.

Approximately half the students have realized their admission was a scam and chose to return home. A few remain.

"I can't go back. Everyone in my village heard that I'm studying at Wuhan University. How can I face them if I go back now?" said one of the students who refused to be named.

"Every year, I see a dozen students with fake admission letters coming to live in the student dorms," said a senior at the university who refused to be named. "Most live for a while and then move on. A few stay for a very long time." ■



UK Pavilion at the 2010 Shanghai Expo



New Bus for London



UK Pavilion

Photos by Iwan Baan



Olympic Cauldron

Photo by Edmund Sumner

British Inventor's Exhibition Tours China

BY YANG XIN



Photo by British Council

British designer Thomas Heatherwick is bringing the works of his Heatherwick Studio to China for the 2015 UK-China Year of Cultural Exchange.

New British Inventors: Inside Heatherwick Studio opened at CAFA Art Museum yesterday. The exhibition offers insights into the ideas behind its architecture and engineering projects, as well as furniture, sculpture and product design.

The exhibition is organized by the British Council and GREAT Britain campaign.

London-based Heatherwick Studio is part of the new wave of British designers. Its work includes drawings, models, films and test pieces, as well as the UK Pavilion at the 2010 Shanghai Expo.

Curated by Kate Goodwin and designed by Heatherwick Studio, the exhibition captures the studio's spirit of discovery and demonstrates its imaginative approach to design.

Featured pieces include process models and full-size pieces from Heatherwick Studio's Learning Hub, a model of the UK Pavilion for the 2010

Shanghai Expo and a model of the Olympic Cauldron used at the 2012 London Olympic Games.

Other exhibits include its design of the New Bus for London and furniture designs from throughout the studio's career.

A series of films, talks, workshops and master classes showcasing British design, architecture, engineering, fashion and technology, will be held in parallel to the exhibition. The organizers said they aim to inspire and provide a platform for British companies and designers to develop new collaborations in China.

Thomas Heatherwick, the founder of the studio, leads a team of 170 architects, designers and makers in London. The team's artistic approach to problem solving has created some of the UK's most acclaimed and memorable recent projects.

Heatherwick will speak at CAFA on June 5. His talk will introduce the story behind some of Heatherwick Studio's greatest projects and discuss how they were conceived, designed and created. ■

Heatherwick Studio

China Exhibition

⌚ 9:30 am-5:30 pm, June 4-21

(closed Mondays)

→ CAFA Art Museum, 8 Huajiadi Nan Jie, Chaoyang

1,000 Unite to Perform Beethoven's Music

BY YANG XIN

The German Embassy in Beijing organized an improvisational performance of "Ode to Joy" from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with 300 musicians and 700 listeners on May 30.

Its official invitation, issued several days before the activity, invited interested people to "make friends via music." Participants were required to take their musical instruments, or at least their voice. Each could bring up to two guests.

Three hundred musicians and singers enrolled shortly after the embassy put out

the call. The group included professionals and amateurs from China and abroad who volunteered their Chinese folk instruments and classical musical instruments for the performance.

"I feel lucky I will get to participate in the activity. I heard the chorus had 160 people and orchestra had 150 from all over the world," a netizen named Mafibj wrote on Sina.

"Germany has a profound cultural interest in chorus. Our cold winters and short summers make chorus a solemn indoor social

activity. Chinese chorus is more casual – even strangers can join in. That's why we chose "Ode to Joy" – a German musical treasure that is known in China," Ambassador Michael Clauss said before the concert began.

Ludwig Van Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" is one of the most famous German classical compositions and the anthem of the European Union. The German poet Friedrich Schiller composed its lyrics.

On that day of the performance, "Ode to Joy" was sung in both German and Chinese to show respect for host nation. ■



Photo by the German Embassy in Beijing



Summer Weekends at the Jixian Marriott Hotel

It can be tough to find a cool escape from Beijing's hot summer. Noisy crowds make the Chengde Mountain Resort of Hebei province a poor destination, and the Jiuzhaigou Valley Scenic and Historic Interest Area of Sichuan province is too far for a weekend trip.

For a cool and quiet location nearby, Jixian County in Tianjin might be the best option. Jixian is surrounded by majestic mountains and clear lakes, and is known as the backyard garden of Beijing and Tianjin.

Convenient transportation makes it easy for Beijingers to enjoy a happy weekend at the luxurious Jixian Marriott Hotel.

Jixian Marriott Hotel

The Jixian Marriott Hotel is the county's first international hotel. It is also the first Marriott International hotel featuring the new Goji Kitchen and Bar catering concept. Its five-star service and facilities provide a comfortable experience for guests.

As China's first hotel promoting a Low Carbon Emission Lifestyle, Jixian Marriott Hotel uses environmentally friendly décor, energy-saving lamps and a Fresh Air system.

In its Four Season garden, swimming pool and hot spring area, high-powered security glass films on the glass ceiling keep out ultra-

violet and shield the room from outdoor heat. The roof also uses solar energy panels to collect energy and heat water.

The fitness center has self-powered treadmills. The power generated in 30 minutes of exercise is enough to power a laptop for an hour or a mobile phone for an entire day.

The Carbon Bill is another distinct feature of the hotel. When guests check out they are given a Carbon Footprint Card that records how much carbon dioxide they emitted during their stay.

Guests who are willing to compensate for their carbon emissions can donate money to the Roots and Shoots Environment Protection Agency, which purchases and plants trees in the growing deserts of Inner Mongolia.

Apart from advanced hardware facilities and better services, the hotel's location is its main draw.

The Jixian Marriott Hotel is close to the Dule Temple, Jixian White Pagoda and Huangyaguan Great Wall. It offers an unmatched rest after a full day of sightseeing.

Marriott Hotels, the global leader in lodging companies, operates more than 4,000 properties and 690,000 rooms in 78 countries and territories. It is based in Bethesda, Maryland, US. ■

(By Shu Pengqian)



5th 'China Mobile Cup' Koolearn Spoken English Contest Concludes



The final round of the "China Mobile Cup" Koolearn Spoken English Contest ended on May 20 at the Lakeview Hotel.

This year's content was career-oriented and tested Chinese university students' English communication abilities – especially their ability to apply their English skills to the workplace.

Koolearn Spoken English Contest has drawn attention from educational and commercial circles since 2010 for its ability to broaden students' views and boost their competence in the workplace.

This year's content was the first to combine individual selection with team selection. Simulated business environments helped to test the competitors' English communication skills and teamwork abilities.

Twenty-four university students were selected from across the country. After the first three days, 12 competitors entered the finals on May 20.

Liu Yisha, from Communication University of China, placed first; Xu Yonghao, from Peking University, placed second; and Lin Qianhui, from China Youth University of Political Studies, placed third.

Sponsored by China Mobile Communications Corporation and held by New Oriental Education and Technology Group and Koolearn.com, the contest was also supported by the Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business, Tencent and China Social Welfare Foundation.

Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business sent professional teachers to train the competitors and offered 100,000 yuan MBA scholarships for the winners.

Tencent ran a live broadcast of the event online and offered the most popular competitor the chance to become an intern at Tencent. ■

(By Shu Pengqian)